GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:310
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
FIRE INCIDENTS IN ORDNANCE DEPOTS
Ramadass Prof. M;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an unprecedented increase in the incidents of fire in Army Ordnance Depots;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of ammunition destroyed and loss of lives and property alongwith the value thereof in each case during the last three years, separately;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into each incident separately;

(d) if so, the details of the findings of each inquiry;

(e) the action taken thereon and the extent to which affected civilians have been compensated by the Government; and

(f) the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future and to safeguard the interests of civilians?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (f): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 310 FOR ANSWER ON 19.11.2007

The details of fire incidents in the Army Ordnance Depots during last three years are as under:-

(a) On 22.3.2005, a fire incident took place in Central Ammunition Depot (CAD) Pulgaon in which ammunition valued at Rs.22 crores was destroyed. There was no loss of life.

(b) On 11.8.2007, a fire broke out in a Field Ammunition Depot (21 FAD) at Khundroo in Kashmir. Eighteen lives were reportedly lost in the fire incident.

2. In each of the incident, a Court of Inquiry (COI) was ordered. The recommendations of the COI have been implemented in the case of fire incident in CAD Pulgaon. In case of 21 FAD Khundroo, it will be premature to indicate any estimate of damage caused before completion of the COI.

3. For the assistance of the people inhabiting areas adjacent to 21 FAD at Khundroo affected by the fire incident on 11.8.2007, the Ministry of Defence has released an amount of Rs.26.74 crores to the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir as ex-gratia relief/assistance.

4. Modernization of Army Ordnance Depots including improvement of safety measures is an ongoing process. Government has approved an amount of Rs.1413.34 crores since 1998 till date for the upgradation of the ammunition storage facilities. Government has also approved modernization of the existing security and fire prevention infrastructure in the Central Ammunition Depot at Pulgaon, Field Ammunition Depot at Jodhpur and an Ammunition Company as a pilot project.